Amendments to the Specification:

● Please replace the original title with the following title:

NETWORK MANAGEMENT SERVER COMBINING PDUs TO MINIMIZE BANDWIDTH CONSUMPTION AT DATA LINK LAYER

● Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5 as follows:

The subject matter disclosed in each of the following applications is related: Rawson, [Combining Network Management Information with Application Information on a Computer Network, Docket No. AUS920000520US;] *Network Management Server Combining PDUs to Minimize Bandwidth Consumption at Data Link Layer; Serial Number 09/799,361;* Rawson, [Polling for and Transfer of Protocol Data Units in a Data Processing Network, Docket No. AUS920000516US1;] *Management of Servers by Polling Protocol Data Units with Minimized Management Traffic at Data Link Layer, Serial Number 09/799,358;* and Rawson, [Protocol Data Unit Prioritization in a Data Processing Network; Docket No. AUS920000522US1] *Prioritization Of Network Management Server PDUs Versus Other PDUs at Data Link Layer, Serial Number 09/799,362.*

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

● Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 21:

[~~The problem identified above is addressed by a data processing network and associated methods of transmitting protocol data units (PDU) as disclosed herein. The network includes a first server including a first network interface card (NIC) that connects the first server to a central switch. The network further includes a second server including a second network interface card (NIC) that connects the second server to the central switch. The first NIC is configured to store a first PDU in a buffer upon determining that the first PDU is of a first type and to combine the first PDU stored in the buffer with a second PDU of a second type upon determining that the first and second PDU share a common target. The combined PDU is then forwarded to the common target as a single PDU thereby reducing the number of PDUs traversing the network.~~]

● Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 30:

[~~In one embodiment, the second server NIC receives management PDUs from the first server and application PDUs from an external network. The NIC may be configured to interpret priority information in the management and application PDUs and enabled to prioritize interrupts to a host processor of the second server based upon the priority information. The management PDUs may be generated at a low level of the network's communication protocol stack. The communication protocol stack may comprise a TCP/IP protocol stack. The application PDUs are typically TCP/IP compliant while the management PDUs are generated at a data link level of the stack. The priority information may be contained within an IEEE 802.1q compliant header of the PDUs. The second server is typically configured to grant higher priority to application PDUs than management PDUs. The NIC may be configured to buffer management PDUs until a management PDU interrupt is issued. The second server NIC may be further configured to issue management PDU interrupts after detecting an absence of management PDU activity for a predetermined interval.~~]